



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



Second to none

Morris Hill Elementary School teacher among state's most promising

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Fort Riley Post

Troopers end season

A team compiles winning record

Page 15



Thursday, December 23, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 47, No. 51

Around The Army

Fort Polk:

The Guardian reported Dec. 17 that 30 company, troop- and battery-level units had activated Dec. 9 during a ceremony on Dragon Field. The 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light) units activated even though the 4th Bde. is not set to activate until January. Soldiers of the brigade will begin preparing for upcoming deployments.

For more on this story and other Fort Polk news, visit www.jrtc-polk.army.mil on the Web.

Fort Rucker:

The Army Flier reported Dec. 17 that the Army vice chief of staff visited Fort Rucker Dec. 7 and 8 to address students in the warrant officer senior staff and captains' career course students. Gen. Richard Cody also received briefings and demonstrations from Fort Rucker leaders on the U.S. Army Safety Center, the Tactical Terrain Visualization System and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape.

Cody said, "The future of Army aviation could not be better. Right now, the only branch in the Army that has all of its weapons systems fully funded is Army aviation. It is the most exciting time for all of us."

For more about this story and other Fort Rucker news, visit www.armyflyer.com on the Web.

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported Dec. 16 that organizations on post were helping needy families in many ways. One of the biggest ways was through the Fort Knox Holiday Assistance Program, operated each year by Army Community Service in collaboration with several post agencies, according to Isadora Ewing, the program director.

The majority of the money for the program is raised by Fort Knox chaplains, Ewing said, while the Military Officers Association and 46th Adjutant General Battalion are major donors too.

Roughly \$23,000 was accumulated as the result of four Sundays of worship service collections. The money goes into the holiday program fund, Ewing said.

For more about this story and other Fort Knox news, visit www.thenewcenterprise.com/turret/ on the Web.

Fort Sill:

The Cannoneer reported Dec. 16 that Staff Sgt. Bart Irvin of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, and his wife, Cecilia, and sons, James and Thomas, were recognized as the post's Family of the Year. Fifteen families had been nominated for the honor.

The post newspaper also reported that the commanding general had placed Dragon West, 9800 NW Cache Road, and Outskirts West, 9806 NW Cache, in Lawton, Okla., off-limits.

For more on these stories and other Fort Sill news, visit www.lawton-constitution.com/cball/cannoneer.htm on the Web.

Army to test personnel system

At least 100 Fort Riley civilian employees face conversion in early phase

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Fort Riley will be among several Army installations to test a new Department of Defense civilian personnel system.

Several arsenals and depots will test the system first.

The National Security Personnel System, or NSPS, will change federal civil service to a system where pay and advancement will be based on performance rather than time in grade. It will be implemented in groupings called "spirals," Navy Secretary Gordon England announced Dec. 15.

Spiral One will include about 300,000 general-schedule employees of all military services and some DoD agencies.

Spiral One will be rolled out in three phases over an 18-month period beginning as early as July 2005, England said.

In the first phase, Spiral 1.1, more than 1,000 Army employees each will convert to NSPS at Huntsville, Ala.; Rock Island, Ill.; Warren, Mich.; Fort Monmouth, N.J.; Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.; and Tacoma, Wash.

Other locations — Anniston Army Depot, Ala.; Sacramento,

Calif.; New Orleans, La.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and Red River Army Depot, Texas — will convert 500 to less than 1,000 Army employees to the new system.

At least 100 employees will convert at Fort Riley, Fort

See Civilians, Page 4

Legal impact



Sgt. Robert Burroughs (right) helps his son, Collin (beside him) during a meeting of Cub Scout Pack 660 during its meeting at Ware Elementary School Dec. 16. Jonathon Scott watches. The pack is sponsored by 1st Engineer Battalion at Fort Riley.

Area Scout units to seek new sponsors

By Dustin Kimmel
The Daily Union

FORT RILEY — The Boy Scouts and Fort Riley have had a long-standing relationship. But that relationship is undergoing change. The reason: A settlement between the Department of Defense and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The settlement calls for all military sponsorship of Boy Scout units to cease. The DoD has 60 days from the initial set-

tlement on Nov. 15 to issue a statement to all military bases across the world making it clear that the Boy Scouts are not to be sponsored. The statement will then be incorporated into a DOD directive within a year of its issuance. At that time, all military sponsorship of the Scouts is to end.

Russell Black, Scout executive for the Fort Riley and Junction City Boy Scouts said four Cub Scout packs and one troop on Fort Riley and one pack and one troop in Milford that have been sponsored by Fort Riley units will be looking for new

sponsors as a result of the settlement. Black said they will start their search for new sponsors in early January.

The settlement comes after a lawsuit filed in 1999 by the ACLU of Illinois challenged the use of public funds by any government agency to support groups who exclude members because they do not believe in God, such as the Boy Scouts.

"Since the Boy Scouts have a fairly religious oath, it is a violation of the First

See Scouts, Page 4

Police units merge for tour

Training preps investigators for Iraq duty

By James Tamez
19th PAD

"This is a real good marriage between cross-leveled units and states," said Chief Warrant Officer Rick Enberg, executive officer, 380th Military Police Detachment (Criminal Investigation Division).

"The unit has joined well in the past three weeks," he said following a day of convoy training Dec. 20. The Soldiers of the 380th MP Det (CID) and the 48th MP Det (CID) are in the midst of a training program at Camp Forsyth on post. The Nov. 29 to Dec. 23 train-up is in preparation for the Soldiers' upcoming deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This training is geared at readying the Soldiers for combat operations and execution of CID specific tasks in a combat environment," said Maj. Brian Sankey, 1001st Military Police Battalion. "This training includes individual, team and collective tasks."

Sankey explained that what makes this unit unique is the combination of reserve and active duty Soldiers being brought together to form a single unit.

Enberg said the 380th MP Det (CID) is an Army Reserve unit with personnel from Arizona, California, Oklahoma, Missouri,

See MP units, Page 3



Dominick Ponce and his mother, Claudia, watch the 24th Transportation Company's deployment ceremony Dec. 16, in Long Gym.

Transport unit returns to Iraq

By Dustin Kimmel
The Daily Union

Emotions ran high as friends and family recognized the deployment of 120 Soldiers in the 24th Transportation Company, 541st Transportation Battalion, with a ceremony in their honor Dec. 16.

The deployment marks the second time this unit will deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The group's deployment date has not been disclosed, but unit members expected to ship out by Christmas and to be stationed in Iraq for about a year.

"Leaving your family behind doesn't feel right, especially during the holiday season," said Sgt. Timothy Mannor. "This is the second year in a row I'll miss Christ-



Diane Hardy, wife of Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley, wishes deploying Soldiers a safe return from Iraq at a Dec. 16 ceremony.
Post/Skidmore

Mannor leaves behind his wife, Michelle, and his two sons, 1 and 5 years old.

Timothy and Michelle said they find the deployment during the holidays a little easier the second time around.

"It is hard, but I have been through it before, and that helps," Michelle said. "Going into a marriage with a Soldier, you know what you are getting into."

When Timothy was deployed a year ago, Michelle took comfort in her family and moved home to

Michigan until he returned.

But with the couple's oldest son now in school, Michelle will stay at Fort Riley. She said the Fort Riley support groups for military spouses have been a tremendous help.

"You have to stay positive," Michelle said. "I'll miss him a lot. He's a great dad. It's hard not to have him around."

Despite the emotion, Timothy said morale is high and he is ready to go. He said the lessons he learned from his previous time in Iraq would make his job a little easier.

"I've learned to trust the Soldier to your left and the Soldier to the right of you," Timothy said.

About 100 people attending the

See Deploying, Page 2

You can find the Fort Riley Post online at www.riley.army.mil





Troops prep for inauguration

Task force coordinates joint service ceremonial activities

By Christine Thompson
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Members of the Presidential Inaugural Committee reported for duty Dec. 1 to finalize plans for the inauguration – plans that a task force of servicemembers began working on more than a year ago.

When the world watches President Bush take his oath on the steps of the Capitol Jan. 20, it will be the culmination of a lot of work by the 710 members of Joint Task Force-Armed Forces Inaugural Committee.

The committee is a joint-ser-

Local participation

The Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard will be participating in the inaugural parade.

This is the second consecutive inaugural invitation the unit has received.

vice organization established by law every four years. It is charged with coordinating all military ceremonial support during the inaugural period, no matter which candidate wins the election.

The PIC is a private, non-profit committee appointed by the president-elect.

Preparations started when the first few Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen started filtering into temporary offices. For a while they worked at Fort McNair and then relocated into a building in downtown Washington, D.C.

Planning for this inauguration began nearly 15 before the inauguration," said Army Col. John Spinelli, AFIC chief of staff.

Some of the first hurdles JTF-AFIC had to overcome were everyday logistic questions. A

personnel policy had to be put in place to serve the hundreds of military members who would be arriving. A computer network had to be established, and everything from telephones to vehicles had to be acquired.

The largest part of the JTF-AFIC budget is used for computers, communications, equipment, supplies, vehicle support, training, utilities and maintenance.

"By the time it is all said and done, JTF-AFIC will have about 325 desktop and 65 laptop computers," said Air Force Capt. Glenn Garay, chief, information technology operations branch. "Just in the Operations center alone we have laid 20,000 feet of telephone and computer cable."

All equipment used by JTF-AFIC will be transferred to military units and installations when the committee stands down in March, officials said.

Since the election, JTF-AFIC has transferred the majority of its energy and focus into providing support to the military ceremonial units participating in the inauguration. The JTF-AFIC Ceremonies Division is handling these responsibilities.

"Ceremonies (Division) is actually the part of JTF-AFIC that executes the mission," said Army Maj. Gray Cockerham, Ceremonies Division logistics coordinator. Their mission is to plan, coordinate and execute joint-service military ceremonial support for inaugural events at the White House and U.S. Capitol.

Deploying continued from page 1

deployment ceremony heard speeches from Col. William Perkins, commander of the 937th Engineer Group, and Lt. Col. M. Curt Higdon honoring the troops.

After the ceremony, the unit stood in formation while friends and family members said good-bye.

Editor's note: This article first appeared in The Daily Union in Junction City Dec. 17. It is reprinted with permission of that newspaper's editor.

Hospital opens pharmacy

Irwin Army Community Hospital officials cut the ribbon to open the renovated pharmacy facility at the hospital the middle of December. Cutting the ribbon (from left) are Spc. Armando Delgado; Lynn Okita, wife of Col. Michael Okita, chief of staff, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley; Col. Marilyn Brooks, IACH commander; and Maj. Teresa Sapp, pharmacy chief.

IACH/Clark



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Post news in brief

Facilities alter holiday hours

Custer Hill Bowling Center will be open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Dec. 28-30 and from 10:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. Dec. 31 through Jan. 1.

Rally Point will be open from 8 p.m. Dec. 31 to 4 a.m. Jan. 1.

Riley's Conference Center will be closed Dec. 24 and 27.

King Field House will be open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24 and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 1.

The Outdoor Recreation Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24.

The Arts and Crafts Center will be closed Dec. 24 and 27.

The Soldier and Family Support Center will be closed Dec. 27.

Except for these changes, these facilities will operate normally on other days now through Jan. 3.

Holiday chapel services set

A Christmas pageant and Mass is planned for 4:30 p.m. Dec. 24 at Morris Hill Chapel.

A candlelight service is scheduled for 6 p.m. Dec. 24 in the Main Post Chapel.

Christmas Mass will be celebrated at 9 p.m. Dec. 24 in St. Mary's Chapel on Main Post.

A Gospel Watchnight Service is planned for 9 p.m. Dec. 31 at Morris Hill Chapel.

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MP units

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Texas and Washington State deploying on this mission. The 48th MP Det. (CID) is an active duty unit based at Fort Carson, Colo., with some personnel from South Korea participating in this deployment.

This unit will have one specific mission in mind, said Sgt. Cooper Tieskie of the 48th MP Det. (CID). "Our mission is to investigate felony crimes of Army interest in a forward theater."

Tieskie said the preparation training has been extensive and important. "The unit has been through classroom instruction, Common Task Training, Nuclear/Biological/Chemical training, as well as troop leading procedures," he said.

Training also covered Military Operations in Urban Terrain, the Dec. 20 convoy training and base defense operations.

The MOUT training included stabilizing a village that contained combatants and non-combatants, as well as clearing buildings where weapons caches and snipers might be residing.

The base defense operations prepared Soldiers for combat by simulating incoming mortar attacks and simulated casualties. Soldiers had to treat the wounded and prepare them for evacuation while maintaining base defenses.

"This training has been a reintroduction to basic Soldier skills," Tieskie said. "We are learning

quite a bit about modern operations."

"The training has been very good and very realistic," Enberg said. "It will prepare us for what we will be facing when we deploy."

Enberg served as an MP in Vietnam in 1971. He said there is a big difference in the training he is getting now compared to the training he received before going to Vietnam.

"Back then, I got out of Advanced Individual Training and had my orders cut immediately for Vietnam," Enberg said. "The training that we are going through now directly relates to the situations we may find ourselves in Iraq."

Enberg said that the Soldiers appeared motivated about the training and the upcoming deployment. Tieskie agreed with him.

"This training has had its good moments and bad moments, just like any other training," said Tieskie. "The general consensus is we're here, so let's do it. I think we are going to benefit from it."

"I have nothing but excellent things to say about 3rd Brigade, 75th Division, who has handled our training," Enberg said. "The trainers have been fantastic and Master Sgt. Anthony Empty, the unit mobilization assistant, 3rd Bde., 75th Div., has made sure that everything went smoothly."



LACH/Clark

Hospital hosts diabetes health fair

Dr. (Lt. Col.) Richard Elliston examines the foot of retired Staff Sgt. Hilary Walker during a diabetes health fair Dec. 14 at Irwin Army Community Hospital. The Nutrition Care Division hosted the fair's educational component with assistance from Capt. Ana Foster in Preventive Medicine and educational materials supplied by physical therapy and pharmacy staffs. Elliston, a podiatrist and Dr. (Maj.) Wayne Darsow, primary care, performed foot examinations while educating those attending about proper diabetic foot care. Nutritional information was provided and diabetic snacks were served with a low caloric holiday punch to about 50 people who attended the event.

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Scouts

continued from page 1

Amendment," said Dick Kurtenbach, executive director for the ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri. "It doesn't prevent military personnel from being involved with Scouting, just during work hours."

"Quite frankly, it is not that big of a deal," said Matt Devore, Scout executive for the Coronado Area Council. "It only affects who signs the charter agreement."

"It's a little bit upsetting when you hear news like this because nobody likes change, even modest change. But, it is not that big of a deal."

The settlement will not affect the Scouting program or who can volunteer. The Boy Scouts can still meet in buildings on military posts just as any other civilian organization can. The settlement also will not affect the Scouts' ledger because they organizations have not been receiving money from the military.

The settlement will restrict who can sign a unit's charter agreement - the sponsoring organization of the unit, pack or troop.

The sponsor organization can be little more than just the group that signs the charter agreement, but Devore said the sponsor organization often is a good source of volunteers for the unit, particular-

ly when it is first forming. However, the sponsoring organization is often not the unit's only source of volunteers.

"What this means is that we get the chaplains instead of the brigade commanders or colonels," said Black. "In order to comply with the court's decision, it comes down to who signs the paperwork."

Black said while the Scouts haven't approached any community organizations about becoming sponsors, he doesn't foresee it as a big problem.

The settlement will cause one other problem for the Boy Scouts. This year, the National Scout Jamboree will take place July 25 through Aug. 3 at Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County, Va.

This Scouting event happens once every four years, bringing about 35,000 Scouts from all over the country to one location. The event has taken place at Fort A.P. Hill since 1981. The settlement will leave the Scouts looking for a new location for their 2009 jamboree.

Editor's note: This article first appeared in The Daily Union, Junction City, Kan. It is printed with permission of that newspaper's editor.

Civilians

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Huachuca, Ariz.; Herlong Sierra Ordnance Depot, Calif.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; San Francisco, Calif.; Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; Natick, Mass.; St. Paul, Minn.; St. Louis, Mo.; Watervliet, N.Y.; Tulsa, Okla.; Memphis, Tenn.; Galveston, Texas; and Fort Worth, Texas.

'Handfuls' convert elsewhere

Hundreds of other locations will include a handful of employees converting to NSPS in Spiral 1.1, according to a DoD database.

For instance, 73 employees will convert at Fort Richardson, Alaska, an estimated 19 will convert at Fort Benning, Ga.; 11 at Fort Gordon, Ga.; 20 at Fort Stewart, Ga.; 16 at Fort Detrick, Md.; eight at Fort Campbell, Ky.; 35 at Fort Bliss, Texas; 90 at Fort Hood Texas; 27 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; 29 at Fort Belvoir, Va.; 31 at Fort Eustis, Va.; 12 at Fort Lee, Va.; 10 at Fort Monroe, Va.; and eight at Fort Myer, Va.

The group of employees con-

verting in Spiral 1.1 from all services will number about 60,000, England said. In addition, he announced the NSPS Labor Relations system is scheduled to be implemented across the Department of Defense by summer 2005.

The second phase of implementation, Spiral 1.2, will include many other Army depot employees and a number of districts in the Corps of Engineers.

It will include 684 Army employees in Jacksonville, Fla.; more than 1,000 at Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa.; almost 1,700 at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; more than 1,200 at Fort Monmouth; about 3,800 in Huntsville; more than 1,000 in Warren, Mich.; 603 in Natick; 486 in Kansas City, Mo.; 786 in Omaha, Neb.; 95 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; 142 at Fort Bragg, N.C.; 832 in Corpus Christi, Texas; 576 at Toele Army Depot, Utah; 885 at Fort Belvoir; 144 at Fort Lee; 482 in Seattle, Wash.; and 281 in Walla Walla, Wash.

The third phase, Spiral 1.3, will include 2,824 Army employees converting to NSPS

in Washington, D.C.

Fort Riley converts more later

Fort Riley and 17 other commands will convert more than 500 employees in Spiral 1.3.

Third phase includes 17 other locales

The other installations and sites are Fort Benning; Fort Gordon; Fort Stewart; Fort Campbell; Fort Knox, Ky.; Louisville, Ky.; Fort Polk, La.; Aberdeen Proving Ground; Baltimore, Md.; Detroit, Mich.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; New York City; Fort Bragg; Fort Bliss; Fort Hood; Fort Sam Houston; and Fort Belvoir.

Fort Sill, Okla., will convert 481 employees under Spiral 1.3, according to the DoD schedule.

Congress authorized the new personnel system as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act.

"NSPS provides an opportunity to improve the effectiveness of the department through a simplified personnel management

system that will improve the way it hires and assigns, as well as compensate and reward its employees," England said.

"It will provide the department with a modern, flexible and agile human resource system that can be more responsive to the national security environment, while preserving employee protections and benefits," England said.

The law provides that the NSPS human resources system may not apply to organizations with more than 300,000 employees until the secretary of defense determines and certifies that the department has a performance management system in place that meets the statutory criteria established for the NSPS performance management system.

Spiral One will provide the basis for this certification prior to the deployment of Spiral Two, officials said. They said Spiral Three would comprise the DoD labs if legislative restrictions are eliminated.

The new system will be fully implemented in the July 2007 to January 2008 timeframe, England said.

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Commentary

Thursday, December 23, 2004

Fort Riley Post

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Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What is your New Year's wish for the Fort Riley community and for yourself?



"I would like to see more neighbors on Fort Riley help the families whose spouses are deployed. I helped out with mowing lawns. For me, I hope my tank crew stays safe and I come home (from Iraq) safely."

Spc. Alfonso Guzman
Co. A, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor
Tank gunner
Home: Costa Mesa, Calif.



"For Fort Riley, I wish all the troops would come home. For me, I want a good Christmas and New Year, safe traveling for visiting members of the family."

Orlando Gay
Retired from Air Force
Home: Salina, Kan.



"I would like to see more support for families at Fort Riley. I would like more Family Readiness Groups to be more active."

Kindal Guzman
Military spouse
Home: Newport Beach, Calif.



"I'd like to see the post find a way to keep military wives out of the local bars while their husbands are deployed to Iraq. Personally, I hope to find a new direction for my life, a career. I don't have any idea what that will be, just play the cards to see."

Spc. James Laney
Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf.
Leaving military service soon
Home: Marshall, Mo.



"I would like the post to offer more activities for single Soldiers, anything to give them something to do. Personally, I hope to stay out of trouble."

Spc. Fred Murray
Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf.
Leaving military service soon
Home: McNeil, Ark.

Letters to the editor:

The Post will print letters to the editor. They may be edited to fit available space, but the content's message will not be changed. Letters must include the writer's complete identification and a phone number. Send letters to Editor, the Post, Public Affairs Office, Building 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442 or e-mail them to mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil.

Command Message

Secretary, chief wish all happy holiday

By Gen. Peter Schoomaker
Army Chief of Staff
Dr. Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the Army

During this holiday season we honor our Soldiers for the sacrifices they make while serving our great Nation at home and throughout the world. For more than two centuries American Soldiers have preserved liberty for our citizens and our nation's friends.

Our Army has a long and proud history that predates the Republic – from the battlefields of Lexington and Bunker Hill to Shiloh and Bastogne, to Baghdad and beyond. American Soldiers have stood firm against those that



Dr. Francis Harvey

would deny basic human dignity to those less fortunate.

American Soldiers continue to display unrelenting tenacity, steadfast purpose, confidence and heroism on a

daily basis, just as they have for over 229 years.

No matter the place or time, our Soldiers remain the centerpiece of the Army. They are indispensable, the Army's heart and soul. As Gen. Creighton Abrams noted three decades ago,



Gen. Peter Schoomaker

have joined the ranks of America's armed forces.

Heirs to a sacred and noble legacy, the belief that freedom is not free, they answer the call to arms and serve the nation with courage and commitment. And they continue to add glory to the

shining tradition of the American Soldier.

Our Soldiers are warriors of character, reflecting the values of the American people and serving the greatest nation on Earth. We pay tribute to all the American men and women who have served so faithfully during our nation's times of danger.

Through your sacrifices, you have made possible for millions of your fellow citizens the freedom, democracy and the unmatched opportunity that we all enjoy in the United States today.

May each of you have a safe Holiday Season.

God bless each of you and your families, God bless our Army, and God bless the United States of America.

One family's view of Christmas

Holiday meaning goes beyond traditions

By James Tamez
19th PAD

I can remember a point in my life when Christmas wasn't the over-commercialized holiday that is celebrated today. For my family and me, Christmas has been about something simple and worth more than any treasure.

Christmas wasn't about the presents, though getting that new toy or video game was always nice. Whatever the present was, one of the greatest enjoyments was actually opening the presents.

My sisters and I would have races to see who could rip the paper off the fastest or the messiest.

Christmas wasn't about the food, though we always managed to enjoy a feast. In fact, we enjoyed the feast for the next few days because of so many leftovers. Who knew that there were so many different ways to eat turkey?

Granted, most of the family Christmas dinners were not made up of enough food to feed a third world nation. My family was never wealthy, but we would make do with what we had.

Many of our friends and neighbors were farmers, so they would give us fresh green beans, squash, corn on the cob and a variety of other vegetables for Christmas. These foods were



Pfc. James Tamez

given with love, prepared with care and eaten with love for many days. But we didn't celebrate the season because of the food.

Christmas wasn't about the music,

though each of us took great joy in listening. In my mind, some of the most beautiful songs ever written were written about Christmas. "O, Holy Night" and "What Child Is This" are among our family favorites.

Because of the time of year, we were able to hear those songs many times. But we didn't celebrate because of the music, though we included it in our celebrations.

Christmas wasn't about the decorations, even though we would work for hours getting everything arranged just right. From the wreath that my mom made for the front door to the garland I would lasso my older sister and friends with, everything was arranged differently than the year before.

I can remember standing outside with my father for hours, stringing up the lights. On those long drives out in the middle of

nowhere (our house was in the country, surrounded by farmland), those lights would act as a beacon, letting us know home was just a couple of miles away. But we didn't celebrate Christmas because of the decorations.

The Christ child was born in a manger. But as important as his birth is, to my family Christmas means more. Christmas is a celebration of life.

For us, Christmas is a time of remembrance and joy. We remember the hard times and celebrate the good times. We hold each other close and shed tears for the loved ones who are no longer with us.

We live the day to the fullest, knowing that we are not promised another. We celebrate

with friends and wish that family members were near.

We sing songs of happiness knowing days of hardship lie ahead. We do this because we have the opportunity, for at least one day of the year, to forget our troubles and live in the joy of the moment.

Most importantly, we are thankful for the gifts (physical and spiritual) we have received throughout the year and are thankful to those who have graciously given.

Christmas isn't about the presents, the food, the songs or the decorations. It's about the joys we share and the warmth of love we give each other during the coldest of times.

Merry Christmas.

Grunt By Wayne Ulden



FORT RILEY POST

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Publisher-Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy
Public Affairs Officer-Maj. Jeffrey Buczkowski
Command Information Officer-Gary Skidmore
Printer-John G. Montgomery
Fort Riley Editorial Staff:
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Circulation 8,800 copies each week

By mail \$20 per year
A licensed newspaper member of the Junction City and Manhattan chambers of commerce

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Interesting articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Your opinion is important to the Post editor and staff. Please take a moment to tell us how well we are doing our job of keeping you informed about what is happening at Fort Riley. Fax the form to (785) 239-2592 or clip and mail this form to Editor, Public Affairs Office, Building 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442, or drop the form at building 405. You may also send your opinions to the staff by e-mail at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil.

What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas): _____





Soldiers receive 'Hearts'

3rd Brigade honors nine 'great Americans'

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Nine Fort Riley Soldiers received Purple Hearts at a ceremony Dec. 17 on Custer Hill.

"These are great Americans," said Col. David Bishop, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander.

"Soldiers who have given blood for their country are probably the greatest heroes that we can have, next to the ones who made the ultimate sacrifice," he said.

Receiving the Purple Hearts were:

Staff Sgt. Robert Dettmann, Company B, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. Dettmann took shrapnel to the arm, leg and foot from an IED explosion Sept. 13.

Sgt. Christopher Falls, Co. B, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Falls was injured when the blast of an IED threw him against the turret of his Bradley Sept. 1. He was an M2 gunner at the time. His shoulder was injured.

Sgt. Dirk Hoffman, Co. B, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Hoffman was shot in the right cheek Aug. 16 when he was clearing a building in Sadr City, Iraq.

Sgt. Jeffrey Vaughn, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Vaughn was shot in the back of his legs and in his back Sept. 10.

Spc. Juan Alcaraz, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Bn., 1st Field Artillery (Fire Support Team). Alcaraz was wounded



Post/Blackmon

A Soldier attending the awards ceremony Dec. 17 on Custer Hill at Fort Riley congratulates Pfc. Scott Vandenvryhoef of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, on receiving the Purple Heart. Other Soldiers awarded the medals for wounds or injuries sustained while in Iraq are Spc. Edward Medina (left) and Pfc. William Barrera, both of Co. B, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.

by a mortar attack Aug. 25. He took shrapnel to his legs, arm and groin.

Spc. Dustin Kreger, Co. C, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Kreger was wounded by a mortar Aug. 25 when he was at his guard post - the same incident in which Alcaraz was wounded. Kreger's jaw was broken in the incident.

Spc. Edward Medina, Co. B, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Medina's hand was injured Sept. 13 by shrapnel from an IED. He's had several surgeries and is recovering from

injuries received in the same incident that injured Dettmann.

Pfc. William Barrera, Co. B, 1st Bn., 41st Inf., broke his foot when his M2 was hit by an IED Sept. 19. The concussion of the blast broke his foot.

Pfc. Scott Vandenvryhoef, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, was wounded Aug. 16 when his tank was destroyed by an IED in Sadr City, Iraq. At the time, he was the driver of the tank. He received injuries to his neck and lacerations to his face.

Post news in brief

Division society helps families

First Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, helped 100 of its needy Soldiers Dec. 16, thanks to a grant from the Society of the 1st Infantry Division. The Society presented the brigade with 100 coupons worth \$100 each. The coupons were distributed to battalions in the brigade to be used to help Soldiers' families in need of financial assistance for the holidays.

Retirees gather for formal affair

Members of the local chapter of the Retired Sergeants Major and Chiefs Association and their guests celebrated the holiday season Dec. 18 with a formal holiday ball at Riley's Convention Center at Fort Riley.

About 60 people attended the dinner and dance, including the guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, and State Representative of the 65th District (Geary County) Barbara Craft and a number of command sergeants major and sergeants major on active duty at Fort Riley.

Hardy thanked the retirees for their continued support of the Army and its goals. "You don't quit," he said. The group actively fosters patriotism and civic duty while encouraging a frater-

nity bonding of senior noncommissioned officers of all services and is actively involved in several local community benefit programs.

Ceremony set in coliseum

The Fort Riley community will formally bid farewell to Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, and 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Infantry Division, during a ceremony at 2 p.m. Jan. 5 in Bramlage Coliseum, 1800 College Avenue, Kansas State University, Manhattan.

Museums close for holidays

The U. S. Cavalry Museum, Building 205, and the Fort Riley Regimental Museum, Building 207, will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Both museums will resume normal hours of operation, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, beginning Jan. 2.

For information about the museum gift shop, call 239-2737.

Public Works alters pick-up

The post trash pick-up schedule will change in observance of Christmas and New Year's. The

schedule is:

Dec. 23 - Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights (south of Thomas Avenue), dumpsters at Building 5309.

Dec. 24 - No pick up.

Dec. 27 - Colyer Manor, Main Post, Marshall Field, dumpster at Building 621. (No change from regular schedule.)

Dec. 28 - Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, Monticoh Heights, Peterson Heights (north of Thomas Avenue), dumpsters at Building 5309. (No change from regular schedule.)

Dec. 29 - Warner Heights, Burnside Heights, dumpsters at Buildings 28, 45, 470, 540, 542 and 621.

Dec. 30 - Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights (south of Thomas Avenue), dumpsters at Building 5309.

Dec. 31 - No pick up.

For more information, call Paul Cassella at Contract Inspection Branch, Directorate of Public Works, 239-6274.

Hospital offers more flu vaccine

Irwin Army Community Hospital will flu vaccinations to medically high-risk individuals.

Appointment times and dates are 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 6-7 at Primary Care Clinic No. 3.

Call 239-DOCS (3627) for an appointment.

DAILY UNION
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POST SERVICE DIRECTORY





Three employees, six Soldiers retire

Four plan to stay in region

Staff report

Six retiring Soldiers and three retiring civilians were recognized for their military service at a Dec. 15 ceremony at Riley's Conference Center.

Each Soldier received a Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony. The medals recognized their outstanding military service.

Retirees' spouses received certificates of appreciation recognizing their contributions and thanking them for the support they gave to their sponsors' careers.

Of the nine retirees, at least four plan to stay in the area.

Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Hopkins, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), is retiring after 28 years of military service. He plans to live in Ogden and to pursue a master's degree in education. He also plans to seek employment with the government.

1st Sgt. Marvin Bowman, HHC, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech), is retiring after 25 years of military service. He also plans to live in Ogden and to work as a human resources manager.

1st Sgt. Richard Rodriguez, HHC, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, is retiring after 20 years of military service. He plans to live in Junction City, where he plans to seek employment.

Edwin Mueller, Training Support Center, is retiring after 21 years of service. He plans to live in Herington, Kan., and to travel to his wife's home country of Ger-

many. He also plans to spend time woodworking, making repairs around the home, working with his church and VFW Post 1281 and relaxing.

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Daniel McClure, U.S. Army Garrison, is retiring after 42 years of military service. He plans to live in Washington, Iowa, and to teach, preach and travel.

Staff Sgt. Rodrigo Quiroz, Company B, 101st Forward Support Battalion, is retiring after 20 years of military service. He plans to live in Angel City, Republic of the Philippines and spend time with his family. He also will seek employment as a teacher.

1st Sgt. Moses Simmons, Co. B, 1st Engineer Bn., is retiring after 25 years of military service. He plans to live in Clarksville, Tenn., vacation in the Bahamas and seek employment with the Tennessee state government.

Barbara Rawlings, Directorate of Contracting, is retiring after 20 years of service. Her retirement plans include spending more time doing volunteer work, gardening, redecorating, golfing, traveling and spending more time with her family.

Clyde Chavis, Human Resource Development Division, is retiring after 15 years of service. His retirement plans include spending more time outdoors, traveling, working as a substitute teacher with the local school district, volunteering at local hospitals and pursuing many interests that have been on hold for the past 33 years.

Library closes for holidays

The Post Library, Building 5306 on Hood Drive, will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. For more information, call Victoria Martin at 239-9582.

Commissary sets hours

Dec. 24 – Open 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dec. 25 – Closed for the holiday

Dec. 26 – Open normal hours

Jan. 1 – Closed for the holiday

Crafts center slates classes

Dec. 27 – 6 p.m., basket weaving

Dec. 26 – No scrapbooking get-together

Jan. 3 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., stained glass

Jan. 3 – 7 p.m., crochet, knitting, cross-stitch

Jan. 3 – wood safety

Jan. 4 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., mold pouring

For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

Teen Center slates activities

Dec. 27 – 2 to 6 p.m., Topeka mall trip, \$2

Dec. 28 – 2 to 4 p.m., skating,

Community news in brief

\$3
Dec. 29 – 8 p.m. to midnight, midnight basketball, \$1

Dec. 30 – 6 to 10 p.m., movies in Manhattan

Dec. 31 – 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., New Year's Eve Party, \$5

Jan. 7 – 7 to 11 p.m., movie night

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

Youth Services sets activities

Jan. 7 – 4 to 5 p.m., Parent Advisory Council meeting

For more information, call 239-9173

BOSS sets activities

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will have its Christmas party beginning at 5 p.m. Dec. 23 at Rally Point

Jan. 5 – 3:30 p.m., meeting at Sports Page on Custer Hill

For more information, call 239-8147.

Auto center offers classes

The Auto Skills Center offers free basic and advanced automotive repair classes.

The basic class is offered from 6 to 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month.

The advanced class is offered from 6 to 7 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday.

Holiday hours at the Auto

Skills Center will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 22-24, closed Dec. 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 26, closed Dec. 27-28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 29-31, closed Jan. 1, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 2.

For more information, call 239-9764.

Pool staff hosts family swim time

Parents are invited to bring their little one – or ones – to the pool in Long Fitness Center, Building 8069, from 9 to 11 a.m. every Tuesday beginning Jan. 11. The swim time is called "Mommy and Me," but daddies are welcome, too.

Cost is \$2 per family and the pool staff will provide lifejackets and toys for the toddlers plus fun music. Parents can wear tow lifejackets. Children can bring their own toys.

For more information, call 239-5888.

Red Cross taking orders

Red Cross cookbooks can be pre-ordered by e-mail through Dec. 30. Cost is \$15 each.

Pre-orders containing the purchaser's name, phone number, home address and e-mail address can be e-mailed to redcross-recipes@yahoo.com.

The e-mail's subject line should contain the word "pre-order."

Pre-orders may also be taken to the Red Cross office in the Soldier and Family Support

Center, Building 7264.

All pre-order money must be received at the Red Cross by Dec. 30.

For more information, call 239-1887.

Family care class offered

A Family Child Care orientation will be offered Jan. 6 (first Thursday of each month) for people interested in becoming an FCC provider.

The orientation is given from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in Building 6620.

FCC providers are being recruited to replace providers who will soon leave Fort Riley and to meet demands for infant and hourly care.

For more information, call the FCC director at 239-9892.

Applications available for VFW scholarships

Car seat safety checks offered

Anyone wanting a child's car seat checked by a safety expert should call 239-2514 to make an appointment.

Appointments are available from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at building 407, Pershing Court.

Children younger than 4 are required to sit in car seats. Those 4 and older must wear seat belts.

Child safety advocates say children 4 to 7 years old should sit in booster seats that allow seat belts to fit them properly.

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New Years Rally Pt./12-24 & 30

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Black Only
2X8 COMEDY NEW YEAR'S 12/24

JIM CLARK
4 x 12.5'
Other Color
RED-4x12.5 JIM CLARK 12/17





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Fort Riley Community Life

Thursday, December 23, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 9

Community news briefly

Church invites post families

The Episcopal Church of the Covenant, located at Fourth and Adams streets in Junction City, was built by Fort Riley Soldiers and chaplains in 1859 under the leadership of then Lt. J.E.B. Stuart. The church's congregation invites post families to worship with them at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The service will include a traditional festive Eucharist with music, prayer and sermon.

Support group plans meeting

Wounded Soldier Outreach Support, called WSOS, plans to meet from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 4 in the downstairs conference room at Riley's Conference Center on post. The group is a new organization of wounded Soldiers and their families who want to offer support to one another and to Soldiers who suffer war wounds and to their families. For more information, call Chap. (Maj.) Carl Rosenberg at 239-3436.

Schools eye capacity needs

Geary County Unified School District 475 has appointed a Space Utilization Task Force to review information compiled for the district relating to the anticipated increase in students that will come with the addition of a new brigade at Fort Riley.

The task force will look at the current use of facilities, the possibilities for additions and possibly the construction of a new school.

The task force includes one elementary school principal from an off-post and an on-post school, one principal from each middle school, the high school principal, two district administrators and two school board members.

Rally Point sets activities

Dec. 29 - 5 to 9 p.m., 10-cent Wings (dine in only)

Dec. 30 - 5 to 9 p.m., 95-cent cheeseburger night

Dec. 30 - 8 p.m. to close, variety dance mix

Dec. 31 - No Family Night

Jan. 1 - 11 p.m., Late Night Hip Hop

Jan. 2 - NFL football on TV

Association seeks dancers

The U.S. Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association wants to establish a chapter for social or recreational dancers in Manhattan, Kan. If enough people express interest, a local steering committee will be formed to guide the project and enroll members.

For more information about USABDA and how a person can become a member, visit www.usabda.org on the Web. Anyone interested in helping start a dance chapter in Manhattan should call (800) 447-9047 or send e-mail to central-office@usabda.org.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Top teacher



Heather Douthit and her second-grade students at Morris Hill Elementary School on Fort Riley discuss what activities are allowed during Advanced Reading Program and Exploration time Dec. 14. In her second year of teaching at Morris Hill, Douthit was named one of 16 Kansas elementary school teachers to receive the Horizon Award presented to the state's most promising new teachers.

Educator wins state's Horizon Award

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Second-graders at Morris Hill Elementary School on post learn from one of the state's best young teachers.

The state recently named Heather Douthit one of 32 Horizon Award winners, and she will be recognized during a special luncheon in Topeka Feb. 11 during the Kansas Exemplary Educators Network state conference. She was among 16 elementary school teachers in Kansas to earn the award. Sixteen secondary school teachers also received the award.

Born in Florida but reared in Manhattan, Kan., since third grade, Douthit said she knew at a very young age she wanted to be a teacher. "Since I was 4 years old I always played school and wanted to be a teacher."

That career direction came with a family road map. Her grandmother was a teacher, two aunts are teachers, a cousin is a teacher and her mother also taught school for four years before quitting to be a full-time mother.

Douthit interned at Morris Hill while attending Kansas State University and said she was so impressed with the school, its faculty and Geary County Unified School District 473 that she wanted a job within the district. "I would have loved to get a job here (Morris Hill) but the teachers at the school don't have much turnover. I didn't

The Horizon Award

- Sponsored by Kansas Department of Education
- Recognizes educators who have performed in an exemplary way during their first year of teaching.
- Given to four elementary school teachers and four secondary school teachers in each of the state's four Congressional districts.
- Nominees are selected by each school district.

n't really think I would have a chance, but the second grade teacher retired that year (2002-2003)."

Douthit graduated from KSU in December 2002, so she got the job opportunity she wanted. While she wanted to start as a full-time second grade teacher at Morris Hill, Douthit worked with several of the district's teachers as part of a graduate degree grant.

"I always seemed to gravitate toward the younger children. I always seemed to enjoy the primary grades," Douthit said, explaining her decision to seek a position with elementary students instead of older children. "I think I'm flexible enough to teach all grades, but I just think the primary grades is where I enjoy the children the

most."

Douthit unconsciously demonstrates that eagerness to develop and lead her young charges. In the span of 30 minutes, while the students worked independently or with one or two other classmates on Advanced Reading Program requirements or on exploration activities Dec. 14, she moved from table to table talking with students about what they were doing and learning. She never towered above them, preferring to kneel on the floor or sit in one of the small chairs they also use.

"It's something I do to get down to the child's eye level, to be at their level, allowing them to talk to me," she said.

As she talked with her students, Douthit looked intently into their eyes, smiled almost constantly and never raised her voice above a normal conversational tone. He students followed her example, allowing her to caution them only once that loud voices were disturbing students close by.

Some of Douthit's students left the room for brief stretches of time during the period, but each used a system the class had decided on at the beginning of the school year, so other students would not be disturbed but their whereabouts is always known.

"At the beginning of the year we sat down and said, 'OK, we're going to have to go to the restroom or we're going to

See Award, Page 10



USO Photo
President George W. Bush packs a candy cane into a box for troops overseas at a USO warehouse on Fort Belvoir, Va., Dec. 10.

Bush, wife fill 'care' boxes

By Kafra Hosh
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. - President George W. Bush attended an Operation USO Care Package event Dec. 10 to help prepare boxes for troops overseas.

The commander-in-chief and First Lady Laura Bush joined more than 75 volunteers at the USO Metropolitan Washington warehouse at Fort Belvoir, Va., and assembled packages that will be delivered this winter to troops stationed in the Middle East.

Dressed casually in dark slacks and a blue-collared shirt, Bush mingled with USO volunteers as he placed presidential coins into boxes.

During his remarks, the president recognized the significance of sending care packages to service members overseas. "This is one way of saying America appreciates your service to freedom and peace and our security," he said.

After stuffing care packages, the president and Mrs. Bush chatted with awe-struck volunteers who took every opportunity to have their pictures taken with the couple.

USO volunteer Sue Crippen met President Bush for the first time even though she works at the Executive Office of the President. "He hugged me!" gushed Crippen, a huge smile plastered across her face.

Despite President Bush's visit, Crippen said the important task at hand was still the preparation of care packages. "It just underscores how much we love and appreciate what our military families are doing," Crippen said. "If there's any way I could do this every day, I would."

AAFES officials warn customers about phone cards

By Diane Weed
AAFES Public Affairs

DALLAS - The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is reaching out to let troops know the dollars and cents of international telephone services.

Before a servicemember picks up a phone in a deployed location, AAFES Services Division Vice President Craig Sewell cautions military personnel to "read the fine print." Many domestic or per-minute phone cards contain the phrase "International flat rates

vary ... widely," Sewell said.

For example, AAFES' 550-unit card is available for \$35 when purchased from any exchange in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, \$39 elsewhere. The closest competitor's 500-minute card sells for \$25.

While the competitor's card looks like a bargain, it is actually more expensive to use. Servicemembers who use the AAFES prepaid card receive three times as many minutes for calls placed from Iraq to the United States. In

See Calls, Page 10

MPs donate toys to children



Operation Santa Claus off, Sgt. Jeremy Scaggs (left) of 101st Forward Support Battalion, accepts gifts Dec. 20 from Staff Sgt. Michael Barnes (second from left) of 523rd MP Co., Sgt. Cruz Menoz (with bear) of 300th MP Co. and Sgt. Brian Parker of 523rd MP Co. Soldiers of the 924th MP Bn. donated 171 toys worth more than \$850. Operation Santa Claus collects toys for needy children during the holidays. The elves have collected more than \$48,000 in monetary and toy donations this year.

Post/Hill

Community news briefly

Rally Point plans 'bash'

Fort Riley's Rally Point will host a New Year's bash from 8 p.m. Dec. 31 to 2 a.m. Jan. 1. Patrons may sip a toast to Auld Lang Syne and celebrate in style with champagne and party favors for only \$5 per person.

Advanced table reservations are available for an additional \$10. Patrons can buy their tickets early at Rally Point.

For more information or to reserve a table, call Rally Point at 784-5434.

Team building classes offered

Four Army Family Team Building classes will be offered at the Armed Services YMCA, 111 E. 16th St. in Junction City, Jan. 7. Classes are titled "Military Terms, Acronyms, Customs and Courtesies," "The Chain of Command and the Chain of Concern," "Introduction to Military and Civilian Community Resources" and "Benefits, Entitlements and Compensation."

Classes are taught from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and free childcare is available for those who pre-register. For more information or to register for a class, call 239-1347 or 239-9435.

Two AFTB classes will be taught at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 12. Classes are titled "Management Skills: Crisis and Coping" and "Adapting to Change."

For more information or to reserve a spot in a class, call 239-9435. Reservations are not required but are preferred.

Award continued from page 9

have to go to the library. What would be the best way to do that?" Douthit explained. "They wrote their own restroom procedures, their own line procedures and they decided the best way to do it was ask themselves if it was an emergency, and if it is, then they go ahead and put their pass in (the student location slot on the

board by the door)."

Students must also ask themselves whether it is a good time to leave the class, she added. They know that times when instruction or directions are being given are not good times to leave, so they don't leave during those times, she said.

Before the exploration period



Post/Heronemus

Morris Hill Elementary School teacher Heather Douthit points to part of the work being done by Kaylee Barry, one of her second-grade students, during Advance Reading and Exploration Time Dec. 14. Students looking on are Nicheala Dillingham (left) and Rebecca Ragstad.

MWR
2 x 4"
Black Only
2nd Teen Center/12-24 & 12-30

ended, one student asked to use Douthit's digital camera to take a picture of what she had created on the carpet. It would have to be picked up at the end of class, so Douthit wanted to document what the symmetrical village a student had created looked like. "She had a story to go along with it, so now maybe she can use (the picture) to write a story to go along with it," Douthit explained.

"I try to let the children be the ones to use the camera and be the ones who are having the control about where they take the pictures. I allow them to take pictures for special events, such as the AR party they had," she added.

Douthit said her love of teaching wasn't the only reason she wanted to join the faculty at Morris Hill Elementary School. "I believe that Morris Hill really has a love for the growth of children and the fact that this school tries everything possible to make sure that the children do benefit from anything that goes on. They're very much into self-development, trying to make their teaching bet-

ter, always trying to look at themselves as reflective practitioners, and I just think that's what attracted me."

The military environment didn't faze Douthit during her first year of teaching at Fort Riley. "I would say 95 percent of my class had deployed fathers. I thought that was a concern at first. I was thinking that was going to be an added stress, but it really allowed our classroom to become a family and really be able to bond and talk about it and know that every so often we might start crying because something reminded us of our father."

"Christmastime was hard because they were writing memories about Christmas and that brought up that their dad wasn't going to be home that Christmas," she recalled.

Reflecting on her chosen career and her first year's experience, Douthit is convinced her career choice was a good one. "Teaching allows you to have very exciting days, days that you influence a lot of other lives. I think that it's a job that really does influence our world and makes a difference."

Calls

continued from page 9

this case, the variation is 25 cents per minute versus charges of 50 cents per minute.

The bottom line, according to Sewell, is that "all phone cards are not created equal. It is important to let the troops and their loved ones know that cards from a third party may be subject to unforeseen charges."

Many prepaid phone cards sold in the United States are designed for use within the 48 contiguous states. Some retailers choose the holidays to give these phone cards away in hopes that they will be recharged for as much as 50 cents a minute.

AAFES' prepaid phone cards are designed for use on a global platform "tailored to the unique needs of mobile servicemembers," Sewell said.

Troops should be aware that price-per-minute charges can also be much higher when placing an overseas call using a credit card, calling card or other pre-paid phone cards.

MILITARY OUTLET
3 x 3"
Black Only
3X3MILITOUT12/3DECTF03546150JT

VALASSIS
3 x 12"
Black Only
Cellular One/#4485/12-24-04

USADISCOUNTERS
3 x 10.5"

BLUR/3x10.5/December 2004

Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Thursday, December 23, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Sports news in brief

FRMS wrestlers win medals

Fort Riley Middle School's wrestlers competed Dec. 18 in the Salina South tournament.

Trooper wrestler Jason Chun won a gold medal for first place in the 100-pound weight class.

Three Trooper wrestlers - Lance Harlow (115 pounds) Jordan Fuller (155 pounds) and Larry Mitchell (180 pounds) won silver medals for second places.

Cody Merritt (85 pounds), Bria Jimenez (120 pounds), Trey Walker (144 pounds) and Matt Miller (165 pounds) placed third in their weight classes.

Jeremy Herman and Jeremy Beale also won a match but did not place in the tournament.

Sports staff offers tourneys

The Fort Riley Sports Office staff is planning a Holiday One-on-One Basketball Tournament and Holiday Free Throw Tournament Dec. 27 at King Field House.

For more information, call 239-2813.

Celebrate new year at lanes

Authorized users can ring in the New Year at the Custer Hill Bowling Center from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

The evening will include bowling, music, food and fun. DJ Big Daddy will be mixing it up for bowlers' enjoyment. Each lane will get party favors and a bottle of champagne (for those parties of legal drinking age) to toast in the new year as the ball drops.

Breakfast will be provided. The kitchen will be serving S.O.S., scrambled eggs, hash browns, biscuits, coffee and orange juice.

For those who make reservations, lanes of up to six people can party for \$75.

For those who pay at the door, the cost of the evening is \$90.

For more information or to reserve a lane, call Custer Hill Bowling Center at 239-4366.

Post staff plans mat tournament

The 2004 Fort Riley Post Wrestling Tournament will be Jan. 10-12 at King Field House. Competition starts at 6 p.m. nightly.

A battalion may organize one men's team and one women's team, each consisting of 10 wrestlers.

For more information, call Barry Sunstrom at 239-3945.

Lifeguard training offered

Lifeguard training will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 27-30 at Eyster Pool. Participants must be at least 15 years old and able to pass a swimming test.

Fee for the training is \$65 and a lifeguard training book and CPR mask needed for the training can be bought at the Manhattan American Red Cross office.

For more information, call the Fort Riley Sports Office at 239-2148.

Medics, Division claim victories

Both teams eager to meet in holiday tournament championship game

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

Patrick Skull scored 10 and Curtis Westbrook added nine as the Medical Activity slipped past Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th

Armor, 37-33 in the first night of play in the 2004 Battalion Level Holiday Basketball Tournament Jan. 20 at King Field House.

Antonio Jackson, who paced HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, with nine points, had the team up by five at halftime before MEDDAC was able to get their act together.

The first half saw HHC up by as many as nine points with good play by Jackson and Gabriel Bridges. Good interior passing and tenacious defense sparked the lead for HHC.

"The first half we didn't do so well," said Kevin Stuart, MEDDAC head coach. "However, in

the second half, we picked up the intensity, started driving for loose balls and picked up the press. I told the guys that I wanted to make a dent in the first three minutes of the second half."

The dent came in the form of an 11-0 run that gave MEDDAC their first lead of the game. Jack-

son came back and hit a three-pointer followed by a steal and breakaway lay-up on the very next possession to bring HHC within one. After trading baskets for the next couple of minutes, the score was tied 31-31 with 3:14 left in the game.

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FRMS wins 'bronze'



Marina Castillo (20) lobs the ball over the arms of Emporia defenders to Fort Riley Middle School teammate A. Brockman during a fast break in the eighth-grade girls tournament championship game Dec. 16 at Junction City Middle School. Post/Heronemus

Scoreboard

Fort Riley

Player	1st	2nd
Marina Castillo	2	5
Barbara Commons	2	0
Ashley Brockman	3	2
Kaylann Spriggs	0	2
Yolanda Reid	4	2
Rynae McArthur	0	2
Total	11	13

Emporia

Player	1st	2nd
A. Armitage	0	6
H. Heinrich	6	0
A. Miller	16	0
K. McEvoy	0	3
A. Leising	0	6
J. Sheve	0	1
L. Hileman	2	4
E. Shultz	2	0
Total	26	20

Eighth-grade girls end winning hoop season

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fort Riley Middle School's A team wrapped up a winning season with a second-place finish in the Junction City Middle School eighth-grade basketball tournament Dec. 16. The Troopers lost 46-24 to the pressing defense and sharp shooting of the Emporia Vikings to finish a winning season with an 8-7 win-loss record.

The B team placed fourth in the three-day JCMS tournament that also hosted teams from Manhattan's Eisenhower and Anthony, North Hill and Washburn Rural Dec. 13, 14 and 16.

The championship game was the first meeting between the Troopers and Vikings, said FRMS Coach Mike Whaley. The Troopers earned their berth in

the title tilt with a 28-14 win against Washburn Rural and a 33-20 win against Eisenhower Dec. 13. Catherine Carmichael led the Troopers' offensive effort against Washburn Rural with 12 points. Yolanda Reid hit for eight points and Marina Castillo scored seven in the win against Eisenhower.

The Troopers grabbed the tip to start the championship game but quickly lost control of the ball while driving for the basket. That became a familiar scene through the rest of the game. The Troopers had trouble holding onto the ball.

The Vikings were first to light up the scoreboard with a steal that resulted in a field goal. Ashley Brockman responded with a free throw for the Troopers' first score but the Vikings came back with another field goal and led 4-1 early in

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Fort Riley Middle School girls eighth-grade basketball coach Mike Whaley talks with his players during a time out late in the tournament championship game against Emporia Dec. 16. Post/Heronemus

Don't let weather put freeze on outdoor exercise



1st Lt. Andrew Jensen

By Andrew Jensen
LACH

People often feel the winter months are an excuse not to work out. Extreme heat or cold doesn't have to mean an end to outdoor exercising for most people. Dressing properly and taking a few simple precautions can let exercisers maintain their workout schedules year round.

To improve comfort and safety while exercising in the cold, the American College of Sports Medicine recommends the following:

- Layer clothing - Several thin layers are warmer than one heavy layer. Layers are also easier to add or remove and, thus, better regulate your core temperature. The goal is to keep the body warm and minimize sweating and avoid shivering.
- Cover your head - Your head should be covered while exercising

in the cold because heat loss from the head and neck may be as much as 50 percent of the total heat being lost by your body.

- Cover your mouth - To warm the air before you breathe it, use a scarf or mask. Do this especially if breathing cold air causes angina (chest pain) or you are prone to upper respiratory problems.
- Stay dry - Wet, damp clothing, whether from perspiration or precipitation, significantly increases body-

heat loss. The first layer of clothing must wick moisture away from the body because sweat chills quickly if it remains trapped against the skin. Medium or lightweight polypropylene or a similar synthetic fiber pulls moisture away from the skin. Cotton, by contrast, has no wicking ability, trapping moisture against the body and continually drawing heat from the body's core.

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Post/Heronemus
Fort Riley Middle School's Marina Castillo (20) looks for an open teammate while being guarded by Emporia's J. Sheve Dec. 16 during the championship game of the eighth-grade girls' basketball tournament at Junction City Middle School.

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the period.

The Troopers faced a smothering full-court press by the Viking defenders from the outset and throughout most of the game. It hobbled the Troopers' offensive game and the Vikings pulled ahead 12-5 in the first period. The aggressive Vikings play earned them six fouls compared to just one committed by the Troopers in that first period.

The Vikings continued to press on defense in the second period, ending the half with nine fouls compared to three by the Troopers.

Their offensive effort also showed results for the Vikings with 14 points in the period compared to only five by the Fort Riley team. Emporia led 26-11 at the half.

The third period turned into a defensive battle with the Troopers doing a little better than they had in the first half. The Vikings managed only seven points in the period compared to 12 in the first and 14 in the second. The Troopers' offense, however, managed only

two points in the period and Fort Riley trailed 33-13 with one period left to play.

The Vikings reprised their full-court defense for the last stanza, but the Troopers mounted their best offensive effort of the game with four field goals that netted eight points in the first two minutes of the period compared to three points by the Vikings.

The Viking defense stifled the Troopers in the final four minutes of play, however.

Fort Riley players often found themselves pinned against the court's boundaries by two or three Vikings with arms waving and stretching to prevent a good pass. The Vikings' hands seemed to get quicker, too, with several steals that took scoring opportunities away from the Troopers.

The Troopers' stepped up defense showed in the second half with five fouls compared to the Vikings' seven, but the Fort Riley offense and defense couldn't slow down the Emporia squad, who claimed the tournament title undefeated.

Tourney continued from page 11

MEDDAC's Gary Ream put the team up for good with a basket in the lane and the team was perfect at free throws down the stretch to ice the victory.

"This was totally a group effort," Stuart said of the MEDDAC win. "It was great team defense that sparked the team tonight."

HHC, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), won the other game via a forfeit, much to the chagrin of

head coach J.T. Wildish.

"I'm a little disappointed we didn't get to play today," he said. "It's a real let down because I wanted us to play a game today, just to get us warmed up for the championship."

For MEDDAC, playing HHC, 24th Inf. Div., in the championship is right where they want to be.

"We really are looking forward to playing 24th Inf. Div.," Stuart

said. "We owe them for last year. We want to see if we can finish this off with a victory."

"I'm glad we're playing MEDDAC in the finals," Wildish added. "We play them during the regular season and we can feel them out, see what their weaknesses are and exploit them. But I watched the game today and I'll have to look hard to find a chink in MEDDAC's armor."

Barry Sunstrom, the intramural sports coordinator on Fort Riley, was a little disappointed in the showing for the tournament, but said he understands that the lack of participation was due to the holidays.

"I would have liked to have seen a team representing every battalion on post. We offered the program to give the Soldiers some leisuretime activities during the half-day schedule period," he said.

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Three win holiday racquetball tourney

Darrick Madison of Company B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, defeated David Parthemore of the 977th Military Police Company, 15-2 and 15-6 in the championship match to win Division A of the Fort Riley Holiday Battalion Racquetball Tournament Dec. 20.

In other tournament action, James Valenta of the 125th Forward Support Battalion, won Division B, beating Charles Boudreaux of the 1st Engineer Battalion, 15-6 and 15-3.

Division C finals were contested by Kevin Stuart of the Medical Department Activity and Gordon Freeman of the 648th Area Support Group. Stuart took the match, winning two games straight, 15-10 and 15-12.

Outdoors continued from page 11

- Keep your feet dry – Use a fabric that will wick perspiration away from the skin. Polypropylene, wool or other fabrics that wick moisture away from the skin and retain insulating properties keep the body warm when wet.
- Stay hydrated – Dehydration affects your body's ability to regulate body heat and increases the risk of frostbite. Fluids, especially water, are as important in cold weather as in the heat. Avoid consuming alcohol or beverages containing caffeine, because these items are dehydrating.
- Avoid alcohol – Alcohol dilates blood vessels and increases heat loss so the odds of experiencing a hypothermic event increase. Alcohol can also impair judgment to the extent that you may not make the best or brightest decisions in a cold weather emergency. It's best to leave the alcohol behind when you head out into the cold.

Breathing cold air can trigger asthma or asthmatic symptoms in some people. Check with your doctor before beginning any exercise program.

However, you do not have to have asthma to experience these symptoms. You may be particularly susceptible if you have recently had a cold or upper respiratory infection.

If you experience a tightening in the chest or wheezing, go back indoors, preferably somewhere with humidified air. If the symptoms continue, contact your doctor.

Exercising in the cold can be a fun and exhilarating experience. Wear the right clothing and use some common sense and you can move about outdoors with little fear of injury.

For more information on cold weather injury prevention, resources are available at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Web site: <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/coldinjury>.

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Thursday, December 23, 2004

Holiday spirit brightens housing areas



An inflated Santa Claus waves in the breeze as drivers pass these quarters in East Colyer Manor. Several homes throughout the post included inflated figures in their displays *Post/Heronemus*

Christmas trim adds twinkle to homes

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

If you're looking for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, try some of the yards in post housing areas. You're bound to find inflated and brightly lit images of jolly old Saint Nick, as well as snowmen, a green Grinch or two, twinkling reindeer and an enjoyable evening of taking in the colorful sights.

Every housing area on post has some holiday decorations lighting up the night.

Some neighborhoods even seem to have made an effort to decorate entryways and porches to look alike in a festive holiday motif.

Several locales in Kansas have developed into tourist attractions with their holiday decorations - including Lake Shawnee, Rantoul, Wichita, Morroville, Olathe, Fort Scott and Beloit.

Fort Riley families can enjoy much of the same holiday glitter with a brief drive through the post's housing areas.



Frosty the Snowman waves from between two lighted bushes while a reindeer grazes on this quarters' lawn on Hampton Street in Warner Heights Housing Area. *Post/Heronemus*



Candy canes and bright holiday lights welcome visitors to these quarters in Colyer Manor. *Post/Heronemus*



An inflated polar bear sitting as tall as the eaves on these quarters on Longstreet Drive stares across the street to the post's Teen Center. *Post/Heronemus*

Arts center party slated

The Manhattan Arts Center will usher in Manhattan's sesquicentennial year with its annual New Year's Eve party, "Celebrate Manhattan," from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The evening will feature an food, music from Calrich Productions, nonstop dancing and champagne toast at midnight.

An added attraction this year is The Little Apple Lounge, where party-goers can enjoy extra seat-

ing, board games and karaoke.

Anyone wishing to attend can reserve tickets by phone at (785) 537-4420, or buy them at the door. The cost is \$25 per ticket or \$225 for a group of 10.

The center box office is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1520 Poyntz Avenue.

For more information, visit www.manhattanarts.org on the Web.